



Proclamation

WHEREAS, latex allergy patients face a constant threat to their lives from exposure to rubber latex allergens; and

WHEREAS, natural rubber latex is found in over 40,000 products, including everyday items such as hair accessories, rubber bands, toys, balloons, bandages, school and office supplies, sports equipment, and healthcare and childcare products; and

WHEREAS, latex allergy can occur at any age with unique reactions ranging from a mild rash to impaired breathing and even anaphylaxis, a severe potentially life-threatening reaction that can occur within seconds or minutes of exposure; and

WHEREAS, exposure to natural rubber latex results in up to ten deaths per year and is the second most common cause of anaphylaxis in the operating room; and

WHEREAS, patients with a latex allergy may also experience allergic symptoms when eating certain fruits, vegetables, and nuts, including banana, avocado, kiwi, papaya, mango, breadfruit, taro and chestnut; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for latex allergy, but prevention of symptoms is possible with awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, the Allergy & Asthma Network is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of latex allergy through education and provides support to individuals who have been diagnosed with a latex allergy; and

WHEREAS, the Allergy & Asthma Network recognizes and thanks Maui Health System for sponsoring the 5th Annual Maui County Latex Allergy Awareness Creativity Contest for students K-12 to help spread latex allergy awareness and education throughout our schools and community;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 6–12, 2019 as

“LATEX ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK”

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing and supporting the work of the Allergy & Asthma Network in raising awareness of latex allergies. With this year's theme, “Awareness, Avoidance, Action and Advocacy,” citizens can learn about how to keep themselves and those with a latex allergy safe and healthy.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this first day of October 2019.

JOSHUA B. GREEN
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i